

## Neeley, Nick

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**From:** Alan DiCara <alandicara@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 12:15 PM  
**To:** Sen. Chapin, Clark; Neeley, Nick  
**Subject:** Re: Are the state's road treatments corroding your car?

Dear Senator Chapin,

Please submit the following on my behalf to the Transportation Committee re their hearing as I am unable to attend. Thank-you,  
Alan DiCara, Winsted

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

This is to request you and the General Assembly mandate some cost-benefit and environmental studies on the use of magnesium-chloride (and/or whatever it is the State DOT is now putting on our highways in the Winter) which studies, I feel, should address the following:

- 1) What are the costs and benefits of the new mixtures vs., perhaps, mixing the sand we formerly applied with some of the newer salt mixtures (or some of the older salt types) - in order to save money and accomplish the same or almost the same result - if possible?
- 2) A survey of auto mechanics and auto body repair shops should be undertaken to ask if they've noticed any increase in rust on cars and trucks after several years of using the new magnesium chloride or similar solutions.
- 3) What are the environmental and health impacts of using the current magnesium-chloride solution vs previous ones on plants, animals and humans?
- 4) What do records of the State Police indicate with respect to highway accidents within the first hour or two of a snow or ice storm beginning in spite of using this new mixture? Are there more, fewer or similar amounts and do they have any advice/suggestions for DOT and how our highways are cleared since they are out there at all times observing conditions and helping motorists.
- 4) Currently, there seems to be an over-reliance on the application of the new mixture by DOT plow truck drivers - at least from the view of some of us who must drive our state's highways before, during and just after a storm in that these highways seem to be plowed less because the magnesium-chloride solution has been applied. My view is that nothing can replace the labor and experience of our DOT plow truck drivers and their ability to actually plow snow, sleet, slush and ice off our highways as frequently as possible - and also applying whatever salt-sand mixture they can as they go along. Somehow it seems the number of plow trucks assigned and working in our area of NW CT are insufficient to handle the demands of most of our storms for some reason which was not the case before the General Assembly put all our gasoline taxes (now at over \$500 million collected a year from CT motorists) into the General Fund and eliminated the State Highway Department. It's TIME to resurrect our State Highway Department and segregate our gasoline and similar taxes for use in maintaining our state highways. While I understand the huge number of miles of highways DOT needs to clear and to do so as safely and quickly as possible, maybe it's time to reallocated some of those gasoline taxes to hire more crews and trucks so the State is 'up to the job'?

5) DOT or perhaps the Transportation Committee itself should have a survey of CT motorists performed to ask what they think of how well our state highways are cleared, what they think of the use of new mixtures of salt, how the state might improve snow plowing operations, and any other comments they may have.

Thank-you. I look forward to any information you may obtain from any studies, surveys, etc.-

Alan DiCara

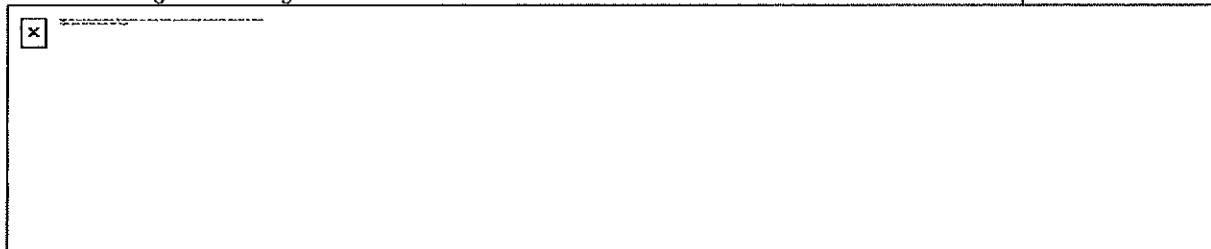
244 South Road

Winsted, CT 06098

On Tue, Feb 25, 2014 at 10:09 AM, Clark Chapin <[clark.chapin@cga.ct.gov](mailto:clark.chapin@cga.ct.gov)> wrote:

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#### Are the state's road treatments corroding your car?

I've heard from a number of residents with concerns that the new road treatment chemicals used by the CT Department of Transportation are damaging their vehicles.

I am pleased to inform you that a public hearing has been scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28 which will allow you to tell your story to state officials.

Bill 5288, "AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICAL ROAD TREATMENTS" would require the Commissioner of Transportation to study the corrosive effects of chemical road treatments. To submit testimony, email Transportation Committee clerk Nick Neeley at [Nick.Neeley@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Nick.Neeley@cga.ct.gov). Please put Bill 5288 in the subject line.

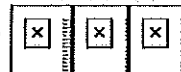
Thank you for sharing your concerns.

- Senator Clark Chapin

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CONNECT



Sent by:  
State Senator Clark Chapin  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT. 06106

*Senator Chapin represents the towns of:*  
Brookfield, Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent,  
Litchfield, Morris, New Milford, North Canaan,  
Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, Winchester

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